

October 1

Restoration

Psalm

O God, you have rejected us, broken our defenses; you have been angry; now restore us!

Psalm 60:1

Meditation

A restoration of the ancient order of things is all that is necessary to the happiness and usefulness of Christians. Just in so far as the ancient order of things, or the religion of the New Testament, is restored, just so far has the Millennium commenced, and so far have its blessings been enjoyed. For to the end of time, we shall have no other revelation of the Spirit, no other New Testament, no other Savior, and no other religion than we now have, when we understand, believe and practice the doctrine of Christ delivered to us by his apostles.

Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist* (1825), 136

Scripture

But you, O Lord, reign forever; your throne endures to all generations. Why have you forgotten us completely? Why have you forsaken us these many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old—unless you have utterly rejected us, and are angry with us beyond measure.

Lamentations 5:19-22

Prayer

Father I pray for that greatest of restorations, that you will restore me to yourself through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

October 2

God Our Refuge

Psalm

*Let the righteous rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him.
Let all the upright in heart glory.*

Psalm 64:10

Meditation

With what heart-felt assurance, then, we should make his sheltering wings our refuge. With what reverential joy we should approach the sacred memorials of his grace here presented before us and “banquet on love’s repast.” Behold these emblems. They speak to the heart. They tell of God’s love—the love of Him from whom all love proceeds.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 2-3

Scripture

On that day you shall not be put to shame because of all the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord—the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid.

Zephaniah 3:11-13

Prayer

Lord, shelter me beneath your wings as a hen shelters her chicks. Be my refuge this day, tomorrow, and forever.

October 3

God's Love

Psalm

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Psalm 118:1-4

Meditation

In redemption God manifests his love. His condescension and mercy also establishes a line of communication between earth and heaven; at the end of which is the earnest, believing, Christian heart, and at the other end of which sets our God in his own uncreated splendor, and glory indescribable, ready to hear and help.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 20

Scripture

I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you."

Nehemiah 1:5-6

Prayer

God of love, your love for me is steadfast and true. Fill me with that love this day so I might fear and love you.

October 4

Thanksgiving

Psalm

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.
And let all the people say, "Amen." Praise the Lord!*

Psalm 106:48

Meditation

As the poor use entreaties, so the poor in spirit, sensible of their wants, are often at the throne using entreaties, and making fervent prayer for grace. They are a thankful people; for they, feeling their unworthiness, and that all they receive is of free favor, feel obligations unknown to any other character. How humble his heart in the presence of his God!

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1835), 73

Scripture

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Say also: "Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and rescue us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting." Then all the people said "Amen!" and praised the Lord.

1 Chronicles 16:34-36

Prayer

God, giver of life and all good things, I thank you for your steadfast love. I bless your Holy name! Amen. Praise the Lord!

October 5

Entering the House of the Lord

Psalm

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Psalm 122:1

Meditation

We come to Jesus and he meets us here—"The King himself draws near to feast his saints today." In the awful mysteries of life and death we hold communion. With the spiritual unseen we live and move. Into the dwelling of the Most High we enter to take the cup of salvation—to pay our vows in the presence of his people.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 3

Scripture

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.

Ezra 3:10-11

Prayer

Lord God, you have made your people into a holy temple. May I enter your presence this day with humble, heartfelt praise.

October 6

Worldliness

Psalm

*“Often have they attacked me from my youth”—let Israel now say—
“often have they attacked me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.”*
Psalm 129:1-2

Meditation

The friendship of the world is enmity to God. To seek the friendship of the world, and the friendship of God at the same time, cannot be done consistently with truth—it is a vain work; yet this work, vain as it is, seems to mark the professors of Christianity at the present day; almost an armistice seems to be concluded between the world and professed Christianity.
Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 226-227

Scripture

But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.
Jeremiah 20:11-12

Prayer

Father, mold my mind and life so I will be free of the control of the world.
Test my heart and mind this day to prove my love for you.

October 7

Love for the Saints

Psalm

*For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his habitation:
"This is my resting place forever; here I will reside, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless its provisions; I will satisfy its poor with bread."*

Psalm 132:13-15

Meditation

Their own hearts will then be filled with love to God, and with an ardent sympathy for our race, while the world will look on and exclaim, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity."

Robert Milligan, *Scheme of Redemption*, 535

Scripture

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

Philemon 4-7

Prayer

Lord, may I show genuine love to my brothers and sisters in Christ, refreshing their hearts. Let me know that we are your chosen ones, the place where you live.

October 8

Judgment

Psalm

*The nations have sunk in the pit that they made;
in the net that they hid has their own foot been caught.
The Lord has made himself known, he has executed judgment;
the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.
The wicked shall depart to Sheol, all the nations that forget God.
For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.*
Psalm 9:15-18

Meditation

Shall their eyes be closed against the calamities that have been brought on the ungodly in past ages, not knowing that the terrible judgment of all is approaching? Be warned and entreated, then, to turn to the Lord before the day of vengeance shall come.
Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 455

Scripture

For the day of the Lord is near against all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.
Obadiah 15

Prayer

Lord God, bring justice to our land, so the poor may have hope and the needy be vindicated. May I leave vengeance in your gracious hands, O Lord, and not take it into my own.

October 9

God Provides

Psalm

*You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.*

Psalm 104:14-16

Meditation

How he bears with our infirmities. "He knoweth our frame, that we are dust."
What a scene of pastoral beauty and loveliness is here brought before us, with
its "still waters" and "green pastures." How bountiful the provision for our
soul's needs suggested by verdant fields and the deep, quiet pools.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone with God*, 32

Scripture

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and
helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is
plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers
into his harvest."*

Matthew 9:36-38

Prayer

Father, you provide all I need. Give me today my daily bread and make me
ever thankful. Lord Jesus, have compassion on me as your helpless sheep.

October 10

Worship

Psalm

*He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.*
Psalm 111:9-10

Meditation

There can be no doubt to those who drink deep into the spirit of the New Testament, but that the aspect of a society of primitive worshippers was essentially different from ours. The hope, and joy, and love, and confidence in God, which their views of Jesus inspired, animated their countenances and their deportment, and shone forth in their whole demeanor.
Alexander Campbell, *Christian Baptist* (1826), 73

Scripture

Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who revered the Lord and thought on his name. They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them.
Malachi 3:16-17

Prayer

Lord, may I show genuine reverence for your name this day. May I worship you with every aspect of my life.

October 11

Love

Psalm

*I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.
For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.*

Psalm 57:9-10

Meditation

This may be called properly the golden chain of divine truth. The end of it is charity, or love—the beginning is unfeigned faith—and the middle is a good conscience, and a pure heart. Faith produces, or leads to a good conscience—this to purity of heart—and this to love, or universal benevolence. This is the sum of Christianity, without which none can be perfect or complete Christians.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1834), 74

Scripture

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Prayer

God of love, pour your love into my heart so I might bear, believe, hope, and endure all things.

October 12

Resurrection

Psalm

Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.

Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts,

"You will not call us to account"?

*But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands;
the helpless commit themselves to you; you have been the helper of the orphan.*

Psalm 10:12-14

Meditation

Let us now look at this beautiful creation by the Spirit, when emancipated from the frailty of death, the travail and groans of the present order of things, and ushered into the glorious liberty of the angels, being now both children of

God and of the resurrection.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 567

Scripture

They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Luke 8:52-56

Prayer

God of life, as you gave this young girl new life through the power of Jesus,
so let me by the power of the Spirit be born anew, looking forward to the
resurrection of my body.

October 13

Pardon

Psalm

*But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your serving girl.*

Psalm 86:15-16

Meditation

What is pardon? This is the one great question to the alien or the erring heir of the Lord. I answer: Pardon is the act of an injured party; in this case the act of God, by which the offense or offenses are effaced from memory, and the offender treated by the offended as though the offense had never been committed. Does God exercise such mercy to those who have offended him or do offend him? Indisputably. The language of Scripture on this point is very full and explicit, and also very encouraging. Indeed, mercy is one of his great attributes. The proof is so abundant that I scarcely know where to begin.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 90-91

Scripture

"The Lord is slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children to the third and the fourth generation."

Numbers 14:18

Prayer

Lord, by your grace pardon my sins, give me full forgiveness, erase my trespasses from memory. Let me live in full assurance that you are slow to anger.

October 14

Mercy

Psalm

*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.*

Psalm 145:8-9

Meditation

‘Blessed are the merciful.’ They sympathize with their suffering fellow creatures, and are influenced to relieve them—they visit the widow and fatherless in their afflictions, to do them good. They are of a forgiving disposition, and are easy to be entreated. In this, they bear the image of the heavenly.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 25

Scripture

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Jonah 4:1-4

Prayer

Lord Jesus, have mercy on me. May I never be angry at the mercy you show to others. Let me be merciful as you are merciful.

October 15

Grace

Psalm

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.*

Psalm 16:5-6

Meditation

That all that are enabled through grace to make such a profession, and to manifest the reality of it in their tempers and conduct, should consider each other as the precious saints of God, should love each other as brothers and sisters, children of the same family and Father, temples of the same Spirit, members of the same body, subjects of the same grace, objects of the same Divine love, bought with the same price, and joint-heirs of the same inheritance.

Whom God hath thus joined together no one should dare to put
asunder.

Thomas Campbell, *The Declaration and Address*

Scripture

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1 Corinthians 15:8-10

Prayer

God of grace, I thank you for making me what I am by your grace. By your Grace may I work hard in your service this day and treat others with graciousness.

October 16

Silence

Psalm

*For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*
Psalm 62:5-8

Meditation

Every day should have its quiet moments when, alone with God, the soul may meditate, with deep and silent awe, on everlasting things, and unobscure itself before the Father of spirits. This habit of reverential intimacy with God imparts that spiritual tone, that sensitiveness of conscience, that realization of the divine presence, so essential to moral beauty and symmetry of character. Shut in from the noise and scenes of the busy world, in the solitude of our chamber, we can the better examine our hearts and give ourselves up to holier thoughts.

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 22

Scripture

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!
Habakkuk 2:20

Prayer

Lord God, may I daily wait for you in silence, knowing that you are in your holy temple. Open the ears of my heart to listen.

October 17

Kingdom of Heaven

Psalm

*When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.*

Psalm 114:1-2

Meditation

Such a kingdom must ultimately banish all discord, strife, and war on the earth. Well may we pray, thy kingdom come! We have seen its rise, but its completion is reserved for the future, when Christ shall personally reign on earth for a thousand years, and forever and ever.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 206

Scripture

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:16-19

Prayer

Father, may your kingdom come! May I participate in your kingdom this day and be your holy sanctuary.

October 18

Wealth and Poverty

Psalm

*They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land.
The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.*

Psalm 25:13-14

Meditation

Our Lord's example was certainly given for our imitation. He could have commanded the wealth of the universe; but he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich. The foxes had holes, the birds of the air had nests, but the Son of Man had not where to lay his head. His example was a veto against covetousness, and a rich ministry.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 369

Scripture

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

Haggai 2:6-9

Prayer

Lord of hosts, all in heaven and earth belongs to you! Lord Jesus, you gave up such wealth to become poor for my sake. May I generously give to others as you gave to me.

October 19

Peace

Psalm

*Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace.
I am for peace; but when I speak, they are for war.*

Psalm 120:6-7

Meditation

If genuine Christianity were to overspread the earth, wars would cease, and the world would be bound together in the bonds of peace. A nation professing Christianity, yet teaching, learning and practicing the arts of war cannot be the kingdom of Christ, nor do they live in obedience to the laws of Christ—the government is anti-Christian, and must reap the fruits of their infidelity at some future day.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1844), 65

Scripture

*Look! On the mountains the feet of one who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!
Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, fulfill your vows, for never again shall the wicked invade
you; they are utterly cut off.*

Nahum 1:15

Prayer

Prince of Peace, come quickly, so wars may cease and all peoples bow before you. Make me a peacemaker this day.

October 20

Meditation

Psalm

*I find my delight in your commandments, because I love them.
I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.*
Psalm 119:47-48

Meditation

Nor can it be denied that many professed Christians are living poor, lean, unspiritual lives, without any real relish for God's word, or for prayer, because of their habitual neglect of private meditation, self-examination, and secret communings with God. And for this neglect, few of them can give any better excuse than the lack of time. There is time to look after the condition of the farm, the stock, the shop, the office, and the markets, but no time to inquire into the condition of the soul and its fitness for eternity!

J.H. Garrison, *Alone With God*, 23

Scripture

Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."

Luke 10:23-24

Prayer

Father, may I meditate on your law and commandments, so I may see the greatness of your works and hear the beauty of your words.

October 21

Caring for the Needy

Psalm

*Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.
The Lord protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land.
You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.*

Psalm 41:1-2

Meditation

“Labor for the things that are good”—for what purpose? Is it that we may be esteemed great and honorable among others? Is it that we may adorn ourselves and children with wearing gold and costly apparel? Is it to hoard up much treasure? No! But it is that we may have to give to others who may need. Whenever we feel reluctant to give to the glory of God—whenever we say in our hearts, all these are mine; it shows plainly what God we serve.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1836), 13

Scripture

But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said,

“The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Luke 10:33-37

Prayer

God of love, open my heart so I may be a generous giver. May I show mercy to others because of the great mercy you have shown me

October 22

Trust God, Not Money

Psalm

*But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.*
Psalm 31:14-16

Meditation

We are positively commanded not to lay up treasures or riches on earth; the reason of which is at hand, for it is impossible for one to walk by faith, live the life of trust, who has a bank account awaiting his needs. I think I read in your faces that you think it right to lay up something for old age. Do you prefer not to walk by faith when you are old? Is not God the God of old age as well as the God of youth? Do you think he would take the almost infinite pains to count the hairs on your head and then let you suffer for what you need in your old age?

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 180

Scripture

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Prayer

God of all, may I trust in you, not in my bank account.

October 23

Comfort

Psalm

*You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.*

Psalm 30:11-12

Meditation

The comforts afforded them by their Lord in time, will more than compensate for their mourning here; but the comforts to be afforded in his everlasting kingdom will cause sorrow and sighing, pain and death and sin forever to flee away, never more to be felt or feared again. Happy mourners! You shall be comforted.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1843), 207

Scripture

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."*

Matthew 5:1-5

Prayer

Father, you turn my mourning into dancing! May I celebrate your grace today with praise and thanksgiving.

October 24

Joy in the Spirit

Psalm

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

*Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.*

Psalm 98:4-5

Meditation

In view of the prominence we have given to the plea for Christian unity, it would follow that we ought to give equal prominence to the mission and power of the Holy Spirit in Christian lives. It is more than probable that we have given an undue proportion of emphasis to the doctrinal basis of unity, to the neglect of what is even more vital—the possession of the Spirit.

J.H. Garrison, *The Holy Spirit*, 100-101

Scripture

Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Acts 19:4-7

Prayer

Lord I praise you this day for the unity of the Spirit, that unity given in baptism in the blessed name of Jesus.

October 25

Prosperity and Need

Psalm

*Better is a little that the righteous person has than the abundance of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the Lord upholds the righteous.*

Psalm 37:16-17

Meditation

How easy it is to take hold of the horns of the very altar of God and plead that God may help us because of his promises to us, and because we are in the line of duty. What if I plead in vain? But I do not; I may have to wait, but plead in vain, never! By waiting I renew my zeal for my mind is, by the grace of God, made up, and my life is consecrated to his work, in prosperity or adversity, in life or in death. The act of persisting in my efforts under apparently unpromising circumstances is of itself strengthening to both faith and purpose.

Ashley S. Johnson, *The Life of Trust*, 159

Scripture

Therefore, thus says the Lord, I have returned to Jerusalem with compassion; my house shall be built in it, says the Lord of hosts, and the measuring line shall be stretched out over Jerusalem. Proclaim further: Thus says the Lord of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity; the Lord will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.

Zechariah 1:16-17

Prayer

My Father, may I be faithful to you in prosperity or adversity, in life or death.
Increase my trust in you.

October 26

Praise

Psalm

*God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.*

Psalm 47:5-7

Meditation

But his saints will glorify and extol his great name and hold him in eternal admiration. He will be admired by all them that believe.

Walter Scott, *The Gospel Restored*, 569

Scripture

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, "Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come." And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Revelation 4:8-11

Prayer

Holy God, I look forward to that day when I see you face to face and glorify you forever. Even now, grant that I might catch a glimpse of your glory and live this day in praise.

October 27

Ransom

Psalm

*Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
there is no price one can give to God for it.
For the ransom of life is costly, and can never suffice
that one should live on forever and never see the grave.*

Psalm 49:7-9

Meditation

Look at Jesus weeping over a lost world—this is the very temper of the Father himself—see him bleeding and dying on Calvary—you see the very compassion and love of God manifested. See his tender solicitude for the salvation of sinners—it is the very heart of the Father.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1841), 44

Scripture

They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

Revelation 5:9-10

Prayer

Loving Father, I could not ransom myself and make my life eternal. I bless you for so loving the world that you gave your Son. Lord Jesus, you are worthy as the Lamb who ransomed me, made me a priest, and invited me into your kingdom. Praise be to God!

October 28

Turn to God

Psalm

*You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
to rally to it out of bowshot.*

*Give victory with your right hand, and answer us,
so that those whom you love may be rescued.*

Psalm 60:4-5

Meditation

Be entreated, then, by all that is good, and pure, and lovely; by the love of Christ, the mercy of God, and the sufferings of the savior; be warned by the threatenings of heaven, the terrors of the Lord, and the danger of being lost forevermore, to turn to the Lord and live; be persuaded by the tender mercies of our God, by all his goodness, by the value of the unfading heavens, and the value of precious souls yet to come, while it is called today, and be happy forever and ever.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 1, 55-56

Scripture

Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name.' They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand.

Nehemiah 1:8-10

Prayer

Father, I turn to you in repentance. Accept my broken heart and restore me to your presence, through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

October 29

A New Song

Psalm

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

Psalm 40:1-3

Meditation

It was not intended as an attraction, an entertainment, or amusement; but as homage, adoration, praise and thanksgiving, from those who were lost and have been found; who were fallen, but are lifted up; were enemies, but are now reconciled; were separated from God, but have been united with him; were in bondage under sin, but are now redeemed by the blood of Jesus. They do not sing because they love to sing, or because they love music, but because they love God and delight to do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, vol. 2, 415

Scripture

And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth.

Revelation 14:2-3

Prayer

Lord, you have given me a song of redemption. Let me sing it with joy this day!

October 30

Knowing God

Psalm

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.*

Psalm 139:6-10

Meditation

An oh! How precious are the influences of that spiritual fellowship which we are permitted to enjoy. How dear to the soul should be every opportunity of cultivating that sacred intimacy, that divine acquaintanceship. How greatly we should desire to draw more closely still the ties that attach us to the heavens.

Robert Richardson, *Communings in the Sanctuary*, 45

Scripture

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10

Prayer

God of love, let me know you more intimately today, so I might become more like you in your love and holiness.

October 31

Forgiveness and Unity

Psalm

*Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.*

Psalm 86:4-6

Meditation

Let every Christian begin the work of Union in himself or herself. Wait upon God, and pray for the promise of the Spirit. Rest not until you are filled with the Spirit. Then, and not till then, will you love your God and Savior—then and not till then you will love the brothers and sisters, who bear the image of the heavenly—then you will have the Spirit of Jesus to love the fallen world, and like him to sacrifice for their salvation.

Barton W. Stone, *Christian Messenger* (1840), 334

Scripture

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give me your Spirit so I might forgive as I have been forgiven.
Begin the work of Christian union in me.